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Senate

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, in these dangerous, divisive, and challenging times, You continue to be our refuge and strength. Deliver our lawmakers from fear, doubt, weariness, and impatience as they learn to trust the unfolding of Your powerful providence. Lord, eliminate from their lives the forces that would destroy their peace of mind. Give them Your mercy that will make them more forgiving, Your strength that will make them more resolute to do Your will, and Your grace that will empower them to experience the ultimate triumph of Your purposes.

Lord, remind our national and world leaders that words matter and that the power of life and death is in the tongue. Provide us all with the patience to continue to plant and water the seeds of justice and truth.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The majority leader is recognized.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, by now, we all know the pain ObamaCare

continues to inflict on our families, our communities, and our country. Skyrocketing prices, disappearing choices, failing markets—that is the legacy of ObamaCare. It has hurt so many already. Without reforms, it will hurt even more Americans as it continues a year-long march toward total collapse.

Across the aisle, there are two basic schools of thought on what to do about this. One is essentially nothing. Two is to quadruple down on ObamaCare with a massive expansion of a failed idea—a fully government-run system that would strip even more Americans of their healthcare plans and take away even more of their health decisions.

Neither of these options is acceptable.

If ObamaCare's failure has shown us anything, it is that we need new ideas and a better approach. That is what the Senate pursued this summer. That is what Senators GRAHAM and CASSIDY are pursuing now. I would like to thank them for all of their dedicated work.

I would also like to thank the committees that worked so hard on this legislation as well, including the Budget Committee under Chairman ENZI, the HELP Committee under Chairman ALEXANDER, and the Finance Committee under Chairman HATCH, which just held a hearing on the bill this afternoon.

I would like to thank each of these committees, their chairs, their members, and their staffs for their hard work to provide the American people with a better way than ObamaCare and its years of failure.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM EMANUEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for more than 80 years, the NLRB has been responsible for the impartial resolution of labor disputes and for ensuring stable labor relations.

Under the Board majority appointed by the Obama administration, however,

the NLRB moved from fair administrator of the law to partisan activist—one that put leftwing ideology, deep-pocketed union bosses, and other special interest friends ahead of middle-class workers.

It pursued an ambush election rule that would weaken workers' rights. It implemented a joint employer mandate that would disadvantage small businesses. The list goes on, and the Obama administration pulled out every stop to get its way on the Board as well—everything from illegally appointing its Members to refusing to allow a Republican vacancy to be filled for nearly 2 years.

A new majority on the NLRB can begin to undo this severe damage and restore the Board's neutrality.

Confirming the nominee before us today, William Emanuel, is sure to mark a turning point in the NLRB's direction. His experience in labor law is deep, his credentials are impressive, and his confirmation will finally allow the NLRB to return to its important work with a full slate of Senate-confirmed Board Members—for the first time since 2015.

The National Labor Relations Board is supposed to be a neutral umpire in labor disputes. It is time it get back to that important original mission. Confirming Mr. Emanuel today will allow it to do just that.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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